

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers**

Human Services Committ

February 21, 2023

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is **rodney lunsford**, and I live in **{waterbury}**, Connecticut. I stand in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers.

Currently, Connecticut's Medicaid program does not reimburse Community Health Worker (CHW) services or incentivize health care providers to work with CHWs. Community health workers are an effective way to address inequities and promote health, particularly for low-income households served by Medicaid.

CHWs are public health professionals and members of a clinical team. CHWs help members of the community have the quality of life that they deserve. They have been linking underserved communities and underrepresented communities with resources and services that are making the difference in the lives of these individuals. CHWs speak the language of our community, they are the voice of those that are not comfortable or have lack of knowledge of the system. They have been advocating for our communities for years to bring equity to the services that they need. They can work in different settings and represent different cultures. We are public health professionals that follow a code of ethics to help us serve the community at the level that they deserve. These are some of the reasons why we are requesting your support of S.B. 991. **(Tell your story and make it personal).**

**Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers should:**

- Center community and CHW voices in all stages of design and implementation
- Reimburse at rates high enough to employ CHWs at a livable wage and cover the costs of supervision, billing, and routine training
- Cover a comprehensive list of CHW services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers.

Sincerely,

**Rodney lunsford**